



*Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026
Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL SONG: "Hosanna"

Verse 1

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away (Washed away)

Chorus

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Ending

Hosanna...

THE ACCOUNT OF PALM SUNDAY: *Luke 19:29-44*

When He came near Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives (as it was called), Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead of Him. He said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter, you will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it, and bring it. If anyone asks you why you are untying it, say that the Lord needs it.”

The men Jesus sent found it as He had told them. While they were untying the young donkey, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the donkey?”

The disciples answered, “The Lord needs it.”

They brought the donkey to Jesus, put their coats on it, and helped Jesus onto it. As He was riding along, people spread their coats on the road. By this time He was coming near the place where the road went down the Mount of Olives. Then the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God for all the miracles they had seen. They shouted joyfully,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell Your disciples to be quiet.”

Jesus replied, “I can guarantee that if they are quiet, the stones will cry out.”

When He came closer and saw the city, He began to cry. He said, “If you had only known today what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden, so you cannot see it. The time will come when enemy armies will build a wall to surround you and close you in on every side. They will level you to the ground and kill your people. One stone will not be left on top of another, because you didn’t recognize the time when God came to help you.” – GW®

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: In the name of God the Father, whose presence we now enter.

P: **Hosanna!**

L: In the name of God the Son, who entered Jerusalem as its coming King and our sacrificial Lamb.

P: **Hosanna in the highest!**

L: In the name of God the Spirit, who has entered our hearts moving us to cheer our Lord’s gracious arrival, even as we observe our lives with mournful repentance.

P: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes to us in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Dear Lord, many times we have known what You have needed from us, yet we were unwilling to give.

P: **We have often questioned You, Lord,**
“What are You doing?”
“Why are You taking?”
“Why have You not?”
“Why have You allowed?”
“Why, Lord, why?”

L: Like the crowd in Jerusalem, we too rejoice at Your arrival.

P: **Yet, we must confess,**
that at times we live as if You were never to arrive.
In our attitudes and our actions,
in our desires and our deeds
we have lived as if You were far off,
uninvolved and unconcerned with us and Your children’s behavior.

L: Yet our unworthiness goes much deeper.

P: **We are by nature fallen, unholy and self-absorbed.**
Often finding ourselves using You to justify our will and our wants.
We admit Lord that we deserve to have You come to us in judgment.

L: For the Glory of Your name and the sake of Your love
enter our lives today Lord, triumphant and victorious,
forgiving and merciful.

P: **Bestow on us the blessing of Your work and save us Lord.**

L: Hosanna, the Lord saves and He has saved you!
The Lord comes here today in these words to cheer you,
“For Jesus’ sake your sin is forgiven.”

P: **Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!**

L: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

P: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: “Faithful”

Verse 1

We had chosen the kings of this world
All the glory and glitter and gold
Though our kingdoms fell down
We keep asking for crowns
We'd reject you to sell our own souls

Verse 2

When you showed us the wonders we wanted
We laid palms down and shouted your praise
But when you weren't the king
That we thought you should be
We mocked you and spat in your face

Chorus

You are faithful faithful
Though your people turn away
You are faithful faithful
You are faithful every day

Verse 3

When you gave us the choice we took Caesar
And set a murderer free
We put nails in your hands nails in your feet
Then we hung you to die on a tree

Verse 4

When like Thomas it's hard to imagine
And we still want to see to believe
You don't scoff at our doubts
You hold your hands out
All your kingdom is ours to receive

Tag

You are faithful every day
You are faithful every day

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L**: O Lord, on this day You entered a city that rejoiced over You, only to later reject You.
P: **Our faith is often as fickle as Jerusalem's and both praises and curses fall from our lips too.**
- L**: Come to us anew Lord; as You have declared us holy, send us Your Holy Spirit
P: **that we might serve and live with the holy purpose of being the means through which many more might greet Your arrival with joy! Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 50:4-9*

The Almighty Lord will teach me what to say,
so I will know how to encourage weary people.
Morning after morning he will wake me
to listen like a student.

The Almighty Lord will open my ears.
I will not rebel, nor will I turn away from him.
I will offer my back to those who whip me
and my cheeks to those who pluck hairs out of my beard.
I will not turn my face away from those who humiliate me
and spit on me.

The Almighty Lord helps me.
That is why I will not be ashamed.
I have set my face like a flint.
I know that I will not be put to shame.
The one who pronounces me innocent is near.
Who will bring a case against me?
Let us confront each other!
Who accuses me?
Let him confront me!
The Almighty Lord helps me.
Who will find me guilty?
They will all wear out like a garment.
Moths will eat them. – GW®

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *Romans 8:28-38*

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan. This is true because he already knew his people and had already appointed them to have the same form as the image of his Son. Therefore, his Son is the firstborn among many children. He also called those whom he had already appointed. He approved of those whom he had called, and he gave glory to those whom he had approved of.

What can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? God didn't spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us. So he will also give us everything along with him. Who will accuse those whom God has chosen? God has approved of them. Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life. Christ is in the honored position—the one next to God the Father on the heavenly throne. Christ also intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or violent death separate us from his love? As Scripture says:

“We are being killed all day long because of you.
We are thought of as sheep to be slaughtered.”

The one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties. I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love which Christ Jesus our Lord shows us. We can’t be separated by death or life, by angels or rulers, by anything in the present or anything in the future, by forces. – GW®

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG: “God Who Bleeds”

Verse 1

Oh my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
Oh my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus

Now I see just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

Verse 2

Oh what love
Knew I’d never have enough
So He chose to pay in blood
Oh what love
I’m in awe
Every earthly gain is lost
At the wonder of the cross
Oh what love

Bridge

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds
See from His head His hands His feet

Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds

Tag

All glory to the God who bleeds

SERMON: *Romans 8:28-38*

SONG OF THE DAY: “Robed in the Clothes of the King”

Verse 1

They were naked in the garden
Covered in their shame
When the Father came and sought them
They hid and scattered blame
Since they’d tasted from the tree
The Father told them they must go
But before they left the garden
He’d cover them in clothes

Pre-Chorus 1

A foretaste of the promise
That one day they would be

Refrain 1

Robed in the clothes of the King

Verse 2

Many years would pass and one day
A Father’d give his son
A coat of many colors
His brothers came undone
They’d sell him into slavery
And though they wished him dead
God would raise this slave to power
Save his brothers in the end

Verse 3

Jesus our savior
A humble baby king

Born in a manger
To live and die that we
Would know true forgiveness
And live eternally
He took on clothes of rags
All so one day we would see

Pre-Chorus 2

The long-awaited promise
Isaiah had foretold We'd be

Verse 4

When He came in on a donkey
They shouted out his praise
Til they drew lots for his garments
And stuck him in the grave
The earth could not contain
A man who would die to bring
Forgiveness to the world
And be his people's king

Pre-Chorus 3

Fulfillment of the promise
That all those who believe

Refrain 2

Will be robed in the clothes of the king

Verse 5

As we one day see our savior
Glorious face to face
Our faith will be as sight
And we'll lift our voice in praise

Pre-Chorus 4

To the king of the promise
Who welcomes all to be

NICENE CREED: (** catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

L: As we journey through this week of our Lord's passion and death,
let us turn to God, the giver of new life.

(A brief silence)

L: Merciful Father, Your Son endured triumphs and terrors in Jerusalem. Give
steadfastness to all Your people in this Holy Week,
and give us insight to meditate faithfully
upon the mystery of the Lamb of God
sacrificed for sheep, like us, who love to wander.
Hear us, O God;

P: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Merciful Father, may the gentle rule of Jesus
as the Prince of Peace be known throughout the world.
Hear us, O God;

P: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Merciful Father, may Your grace sustain all who are sick, (especially...). May they know Your healing presence.

Hear us, O God;

P: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Merciful Father, keep us in communion with those who have gone before us into Your endless joy, and bless those who rejoice this day, (especially...).

Hear us, O God;

P: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Merciful Father, hear us when we cry to You; renew us, and uphold us with Your Spirit; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING:

L: As He sat on a donkey Jesus gave the beast of burden,

P: **A new dignity.**

L: As He entered His own city in humility Jesus gave royalty,

P: **A new grace.**

L: As He welcomed the praise of the crowd
Jesus gave those longing for redemption,

P: **A new song.**

L: With them, we give Him our hearts and voices, as we cry:

P: **Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

CLOSING HYMN: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB 442

- Refrain All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
- 1 You are the King of Israel
And David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming,
Our King and Blessèd One. *Refrain*
- 4 To You before Your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5 As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev’ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King. *Refrain*

POSTLUDE



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“**God who Bleeds**” CCLI Song # 7226510 Benji Cowart | Cara Berg | Jon Gruen | Matt Preston

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“**Robed in the Clothes of the King**” CCLI Song #7225307 Blake Flattley

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“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” LSB 442

Text: Theodulf of Orleans, c. 762-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635, alt.; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship: Select Hymns, 1985*. Text and music: Public domain. Arranged by Blake Flattley



SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...

Acolyte 9:30...

Lector 8:00...John & Josette Utke

Liturgist 8:00 ...Pastor Kevin Kritzer;

Preacher...Pastor John Alwood

Keyboard...Pat Gagan

Crucifer 8:00...

Crucifer 9:30...

Lector 9:30...Tom & Sheri Esswein

Liturgist 9:30...Pastor Seth Moorman

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Children’s Message...



If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don’t feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God’s house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany’s Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we’re happy to help.





Holy Wednesday: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Wednesday, April 1

6:30 pm on the *Cypress campus*

Maundy Thursday:

Thursday, April 2

6:30 pm on the *Long Beach Campus*

Good Friday:

Friday, April 3rd

1:00pm & 6:30pm on the *Long Beach Campus*

Easter Festival:

Sunday, April 5th

8:00 & 9:30am on the *Long Beach Campus*

11:10am on the *Cypress Campus*



Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>

TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right:



FROM LENT TO PALMS TO A SEAT AT THE TABLE ...

JOIN US IN CYPRESS!

WE'RE WRAPPING UP OUR **GARMENTS OF GRACE** LENTEN JOURNEY NEXT WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM—AND DON'T MISS **GLORY IN THE CROSS** ON APRIL 1 AT 6:30 PM. THEN GET READY —SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP RETURNS TO CYPRESS ON **PALM SUNDAY** AT 11:10 AM 🌿

AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED. . . BEGINNING APRIL 15, WE'RE LAUNCHING A BRAND-NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES CALLED **COMMONTABLE**—WHERE WE GATHER AROUND THE SHARED TRUTHS OF OUR FAITH THROUGH WORSHIP, SCRIPTURE, TEACHING, PRAYER, AND CONVERSATION. GRAB A SEAT. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

WHERE IS THIS BEAUTIFUL, NEWLY-REMODELED CYPRESS CAMPUS YOU ASK? CHECK OUT THE MAP BELOW!

